AHMADIYYA MUSLIM CENTENARY 1889 – 1989

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِندَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

THE Ahmadiyya Gazette USA

MAY - JUNE - JULY, 1991

A MOST HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR BELOVED IMAM

(May Allah Strengthen him)

It is the good fortune of Jamaat Ahmadiyya United States that we are being visited by our beloved Imam, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad. The entire Jamaat extends its sincere *Assalamo Alaikum* to Huzoor. This year we are especially fortunate because Huzoor is joining us in the Annual Convention as well as in the celebration of Eid-ul-Adhia. We thank Allah for His bounty and pray to Him that He may grant us the ability to recognize and fulfill the responsibilities that go with this favor from Him. In the Holy Quran, Allah indicates the importance of Khilafat when he says:

> *"And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah and be not divided; and remember the favor of Allah which He bestowed upon you when you were enemies and He united your hearts in love so that by His Grace you became as brothers; and you were on the brink of the pit of fire and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah explain to you His commandments that you may be guided."* (3:104)

In this verse, Almighty Allah refers to the **Rope of Allah**—i.e., the instrument of establishing a connection between Allah and His believer. The **Rope of Allah** takes three forms: His Book—The Holy Quran —His Messengers, and the Successors of His Messengers. Today the American community of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam is blessed by the presence of the fourth successor of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (may Allah strengthen him).

Let us resolve that we will avail every opportunity to benefit from the presence of Huzoor. We should listen attentively to the speeches of our Imam, and be

ever prepared to obey all his commands. We should seek to gain wisdom and understanding of Islam from him by listening to his speeches and by observing truly Islamic manner which pervades his life and activities.

Insha Allah, Huzoor's trip to the United States will be very successful. We are fortunate that we have been graced by his presence. On this trip, as always, we should pray to Allah that He allows us to hold fast to the rope He has sent down for us in the form of Khilafat-i-Ahmadiyya. Ameen.

Selected verses from the

Holy Quran

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets; and Allah has full knowledge of all things." (33:41)

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ اَبَآ اَحَدٍ مِّنْ رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلٰكِنْ رَّسُوْلَ اللّٰهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيّٖنَ ؕ وَكَانَ اللّٰهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيْمًا ۝

"Say, 'If you love Allah, folow me: then will Allah love you and forgive you your faults. And Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.'

Say, 'Obey Alah and the Messenger;' but if they turn away, then remember that Allah loves not the disbelievers." (3:32-33)

قُلْ اِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّوْنَ اللّٰهَ فَاتَّبِعُوْنِيْ يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللّٰهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوْبَكُمْ ؕ وَاللّٰهُ غَفُوْرٌ رَّحِيْمٌ ۝ قُلْ اَطِيْعُوا اللّٰهَ وَالرَّسُوْلَ ۚ فَاِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَاِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْكٰفِرِيْنَ ۝

From the Sacred Sayings of the Holy Prophet (SAW)

Ibn Umar (RAA) relates that he heard the Holy Prophet (SAW) say: He who disobeys in any respect shall meet Allah on the Day of Judgement and will have no excuse to offer. He who dies without having taken the covenant of allegiance shall die in error.

In another version of this hadith the Holy Prophet (SAW) is quoted as following: He who dies while he has disassociated himself from the community dies in error. **(Muslim).**

From the Writings of the Promised Messiah (pboh)

BLESSINGS OF FOLLOWING KHATAMUL ANBIYA (SAW)

"I believe in Islam alone as a true religion and consider all other faiths as bundles of falsehoods. I perceive that by believing in Islam fountains of light are coursing through me. Through the love of the Holy Prophet, peace be on him, I have arrived at that high stage of converse with the Divine and of acceptance of prayer which can only be achieved by a follower of the true Prophet and by no other. If the Hindus and the Christians and others were to supplicate their false gods, even unto death, they could not achieve that stage. I hear the words of God which the others believe in only as a theory. I have been shown and have been told and I have been made to understand that Islam alone is the true faith in the world, and it has been disclosed to me that I have received all this through the blessing of following the *Khatamul Anbiya,* peace be on him, and that the equal of it cannot be achieved in any other religion for they are all false."

(*Ayenae Kamalat-e-Islam,* pp. 275-276. Translated by Hazrat Chaudhry Muhammad Zafrulla Khan).

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AHMADIYYA GAZETTE

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SIGNIFICANCE OF ANNUAL CONVENTION (JALSA SALANA)

On December 30, 1891, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be on him), the Promised Messiah and Mahdi and founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, declared that there should be a three day gathering of Ahmadi Muslim Community. He said about the first gathering:

"All friends should make it a point to reach on this date for the sake of God to listen to his words and to participate in prayer. Such truths and words of wisdom shall be heard as are essential for the increase of faith, conviction, and knowledge. Such friends will also be entitled to special prayers and special attention. Efforts will be made before the most Merciful Lord that He may draw them towards Himself and accept them and grant them a change for the better. A secondary advantage of such gatherings will be that every year when they come to Qadian on the appointed dates, they will see and meet newcomers into the fold and this personal acquaintance will continually develop into close friendship and love....And effort will be made through prayers to create a bond of spiritual union between all and remove every barrier of estrangement, aloofness and difference."

ALWAYS REMAIN ON GUARD AGAINST BACKBITING AND TRAIN YOUR COMING GENERATIONS TO BE ON GUARD

Backbiting by Men is Much More Damaging than the Backbiting by Women

(The following is an extract from a Friday sermon delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih, may Allah strengthen him, on September 25, 1987, in Rabwah. The translation was prepared by Munawar A. Saeed at his responsibility)

I advise the residents of Rabwah in particular and all Ahmadis in general to remain on guard against the evil of backbiting. Fighting this evil should become their second nature.

Circumstances are always changing. It is possible that at one time you may be living comfortably and not be aware of any ailment, but the germs may be spreading inside the body, ready to attack at any moment of crisis. If you have become a victim of bad habits, particularly of passing on every gossip that you hear, you would be an easy target. When a crisis comes, you would suffer and your next generations would suffer, from the consequences of these bad habits.

The Holy Qur'an has given a glorious teaching against backbiting; therefore do not take it lightly. Remain on guard, and make your coming generations also on guard against backbiting.

Backbiting by the women folk—who are considered to be the main source of backbiting—does not actually cause as big a damage as the backbiting done by men. Backbiting by the women is generally about trivial matters—dress, mannerism, or minor attacks on personality. But when this disease spreads among men, it assumes a very dangerous form. You will rarely hear women criticizing the administrative system of the Community. Their backbiting may deal with minor matters like dress and manners. They thus eat a bit of the flesh of their dead sisters. But when men start backbiting it seems that they are determined to tear up an entire graveyard and devour it. Even then they are not satisfied.

In short, backbiting is a dangerous disease; the Holy Qur'an has warned us against it for good reasons. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) has emphasized the importance of keeping the society free from it and has taught us to always stop the rumor mongerers from their mischief.

CULTIVATE THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE SHOWN BY HAZRAT IBRAHIM AND ISMAEL

(Khutba Eid-ul-Adhiyya delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV at Washington, DC, on June 22, 1991. This summary of the Khutba is prepared for us by Mian M. I. Wasim at his responsibility).

Huzoor began his Khutba with the recitation of Ayats 100-112 of *Sura As-Safaat* and then gave the Jamaat a happy news that right in accordance with the famous prophecy of the Promised Messiah which says *"I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the world"* this very Khutba of a servant of the Promised Messiah is being heard live in all parts of the world and others will hear it soon through audio and video cassettes.

Huzoor said this Eid-ul-Azhiyya reminds us of the supreme sacrifice of the Hazrat Ibrahim and his son Ismael. Hazrat Ibrahim is reported to have seen in a dream that he was slaughtering his son as a sacrifice in the cause of Allah. Prophet Ibrahim waited until the son was old enough to understand the implications of this dream and only then asked Ismail how he felt about it. The son replied, "Do as God commanded you" and that "Thou shalt find me a complete obedient of Allah."

As God had never intended a human sacrifice, He revealed to Ibrahim that his sacrifice had been accepted and there was no need for actual physical slaughtering of his son. Huzoor mentioned that this sacrifice became a supreme model and a living and a life-giving story for time immemorial.

The inherent truth enshrined in it is that it is a life-giving and certainly not life taking story. The great reward, of course, was its acceptance by God but the great glory of this *Zibhe Azim* lies in the continuation of the spirit of sacrifice for all times to come.

The greatest culmination of this prayer and sacrifice was fulfilled in the person of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) and his *Ummah* who gave supreme sacrifices in the cause of Allah represented in these verses by the word *Akhereen* Hazoor mentioned that it is the distinction of Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W.) and Islam alone (and no other religion has done so) of sending *Salam* and peace to all Prophets of God of all ages and nations. Huzoor emphasized that it his firm belief that another mention of the word *Akhareen* (with upword phonetics of the letter...), which appears in the *Sura Juma*, pertains to this age of the Promised Messiah and his followers.

Hazoor said that he is inspired to believe that the true spirit of this supreme sacrifice shall be fulfilled by the program and scheme of *Wakefeen Nau*. We are indeed very weak in wealth, power and worldly matters, much in the same condition as the companions of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) were at the battle of the "Ditch". Inspite of seemingly helpless conditions the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) gave them tidings of great victories against great empires of the time. The same shall happen for the true servants of Muhammad (S.A.W.) in this age.

Elaborating further on the scheme of *Wakefeen Nau* (the Scheme according to which Ahmadis have been enjoined to offer to devote their new born children for service of Islam and Ahmadiyyat) Huzoor mentioned that our needs for manpower have increased tremendously because of new converts. In the spirit of sacrifice of *Zibhe Azeem* all parents must not only reform and prepare their children but also educate, train and reform themselves first.

Addressing Ahmadis all over the world Huzoor concluded by saying that "my message to you all is that you must fully consume your entire selves in the spirit of the supreme sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim and become life-givers for the benefit of all mankind bringing them to the fold of true Islam."

At the end, Huzoor mentioned that it is a great blessing of Allah that this Khutba is also reaching Jamats in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Faisalabad (in Pakistan) and also in London (U.K.). They are all giving tremendous sacrifices and their hearts are full of love and devotion. We, here, are all being blessed because of the sacrifices of those people and must therefore remember them in our prayers. All *Aseeraan Rahe Maula* must never be forgotten and prayers must always continue for them.

THE HOLY PROPHET IS THE PERFECT MAN HE HAS TAUGHT US THE BEST WAY TO PRAY TO GOD

(Friday Sermon delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV at Washington, DC, on June 21, 1991. This summary is prepared for us by Mian M. I. Wasim at his responsibility)

(Huzoor arrived at the John F. Kennedy High School a little before 2 p.m. Nearly 1500 men, women and children from the greater Washington Metropolitan area (which includes Northern Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia) and other Jamaats like Baltimore, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, New Jersey and others had already gathered in two large halls with men and ladies seated in different halls. With closed circuit TV our sisters could see and hear all the proceedings on a huge screen. Huzoor's sermon was delivered in Urdu but was being simultaneously translated into English for the benefit of our American Ahmadies who enjoyed listening with rapt attention on ear phones.)

Huzoor started by recitation of verses of the Holy Quran from *Sura Saad:*

(And remember Our servant Job, when he cried unto his Lord, saying: 'Satan has afflicted me with toil and torment.' 'Strike and urge thy riding beast with thy foot. Here is cool water to wash with and drink.') (38:42-43)

mentioning that the Khutba being delivered now is a continuation of several previous ones that he has delivered before on the subject of Quranic prayers, Huzoor said that prayers mentioned in these verses demonstrate how on certain occasions statement of the conditions and circumstances becomes a prayer by themselves. Hazrat Ayyub (A.S.) only stated to Allah that he was stricken with pain and suffering. Allah's response came immediately revealing to him a place for migration where he would be provided with cool and comforting water.

Next Huzoor said that while riding a means of transportation we must remember the prayer: "Holy is Allah who made it our subject". Today's fast moving means are made useful to us only because God has empowered the humans to use them. If we keep this fact in our hearts while travelling and make ourselves humble before the will of God, He will save us from harm and accidents.

Turning specifically to the American society, Huzoor said that it is full of physical pollution which is very apparent. But this society is choked with another most dangerous pollution which is working directly against the forces of spiritual realm. We can save ourselves from its evil effects only by saying this very prayer that I have mentioned earlier.

He said Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) had mentioned about the vicious character of Dajjal, devoid of religion but deep and full of worldly matters. We must deeply reflect upon the evil consequences of living in this polluted society and continuously pray to Allah to save us and our children from evil consequences of it.

Towards the end Huzoor mentioned the prayers of the Perfect Man. He said that the Perfect Man is the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) He recited a verse from *Sura Al-Ahqaf* (46:16) and explained that in this Prayer the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) thanks Allah for the favours granted him and his parents and asks the opportunity to do good deeds for himself and his progeny which means not merely his physical children but the entire Muslim Ummah.

In conclusion Huzoor said that the secret of acceptance of our prayers by Allah does not lie in mere repetition of words. Our prayers will be accepted only if they are made with a spirit of devotion and sincerity as shown by the earlier Prophets. Let us pray to Allah Almighty that all of us become inheritors of the blessings which the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) asked in his prayers.

A BLESSED DAY IN THE HISTORY OF MEXICO

June 16, 1991 will be remembered in the history of Mexico as the blessed day when the Khilafat-i-Ahmadiyya graced it with its presence for the first time. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (May Allah strengthen him) gave an important message to more than one hundred inhabitants of Mexico City—thus fulfilling the dream of a young Mexican which he saw about a year ago: "A man by the name of Mirza has come to Mexico and has given us an important message. Huzoor stayed only for one night. During this period, he led the prayers, met Mexican Ahmadis and other friends and gave faith-inspiring responses in a question and answer session. Huzoor then went to Fiesta Hotel to address a large gathering in which he compared the life of Mosaic Messiah with that of the Muhammadi Messiah. In this respect he particularly mentioned how Islam has spread in more than 125 countries during the last one hundred years. After the address Huzoor shook hands with all participants, answered their questions, and at their request, held another informal meeting with them. Huzoor also mentioned the dream of Mr. Ibrahim and pointed out that he was present in the gathering. He added that his visit to Mexico was a Divine decree which was fulfilled in a magnificent way: The Embassy of Mexico in London had actually refused to grant him the visa, but the efforts of our Mexican brothers made the visit possible.

Addressing the Mexicans Huzoor said: "I am a truthful man and I have a living relationship with God. I have offerred you my heart. In return I ask for your heart."

After that Huzoor took Bait from 18 new Ahmadis.

A summary of the highlights of the trip is the following:

- 100 Mexicans participated in the 1st Ahmadiyya Muslim Conference on June 16, 1991, in Mexico.
- Huzoor's speech and question/answer session lasted for more than four hours.
- A wonderful exhibition of Ahmadiyya history and literature, by USA Jamaat.
- A group of 27 Mexican Muslims accepted Ahmadiyyat.
- Unforgetable and moving moments of a Baait Ceremony at the hands of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV.
- Establishment of a new Jamaat in Mexico on June 16, 1991.

HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH IV VISITS NEW JERSEY

Hazrat Khalifatul Massih IV arrived at Bait-ul-wahid on June 18, 1991, at 1:40 P.M. The executives of the North Jersey Jamaaat welcomed Huzoor while the rest of the members of the Jamaat waited for Huzoor inside the mosque. Huzoor was accompanied to the office by the President, Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhary, and the Secretary, Karimullah Zirvi. Huzoor was given a program for the day by the President.

Nasir Vance called the Azan for prayers. Huzoor led the prayers. About 250 men, women and children offered prayers. After prayers Huzoor visited the Lajna while lunch was being set on the tables. Huzoor had lunch with the Jamaat members. Again, 250 members ate lunch. Women ate in their hall while men ate in the canopy with Huzoor.

After lunch the members met Huzoor family-wise, which lasted for 3 hours. Huzoor left for New York at 6:30 P.M. Before Huzoor's departure, pictures of the executives of the North Jersey Jamaat and the Khudam-ul-Ahmadiyya were taken with Huzoor.

By God's Grace the program was well organized and Huzoor expressed his pleasure. Everyone enjoyed Huzoor's visit.

(Karimullah Zirvi, Secretary, North Jersey Jamaat)

THE BLESSING OF KHILAFAT

A Proof of the Truth of Ahmadiyyat for those who have an open mind

by Munawar A. Saeed

In Sura Al-Noor of the Holy Qur'an Allah the Exalted has given a glad tiding to the sincere Muslims:

"Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will, surely, make them successors in the earth, as He made successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them the religion which He has chosen for them; and that after their state of fear, He will grant them peace and security. They will worship Me and they will not associate anything with Me. Then whoso disbelieves thereafter, they will be the rebellious ones." (24:56)

In this verse we learn several aspects of the promise of Khilafat among the Muslims:

The system of Khilafat will *surely* be established among the Muslims.

- The establishment of Khilafat will be solely in accordance with the will of God; no politics or worldly designs will provide the basis of the system.
- Khilafat will be a source of strength for the believers at the time of their fear.
- The purpose of the Khilafat will be the establishment of the worship of One God.
- There will be people who are ungrateful for this blessing of God; they are declared to be the "rebellious" in the word of God.

In accordance with this promise, the Muslims were blessed with Khilafat at the time of their greatest fear. Never were the Muslims in a greater state of fear than at the time when the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) passed away. The brave companions whose advancing steps were a terror for the mighty kingdoms of Persia and Rome were, at that time, totally shaken and fear-stricken. Even a man as brave and level-headed as Hazrat Umar lost control of his balance and declared that anybody who said that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has died would die with his sword. This surely was the time for the fulfillment of the promise of God; and the promise was fulfilled in a grand way. Allah chose Hazrat Abu Bakr to lead the Muslims in this 'state of fear' and did, in a matter of moments, change their fear into a state of security. The mission of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was continued by the four righteous Khalifas. Within a matter of thirty years the worship of One God was established not only in Arabia but also in distant lands.

Unfortunately, there were some rebellious ones who introduced personal interests and tribal affiliations and succeeded in influencing many sincere Muslims resulting in civil wars among the Muslims. Three of the righteous Khalifas, Hazrat Umar, Hazrat Uthman and Hazrat Ali, were martyred. Because of this ungratefulness, Muslims lost the blessing of Khilafat, and became the victims of internal dissension. A prolonged state of fear ensued and lasted for one thousand dark years—in which Muslim sects declared each other infidels, Muslims fought other Muslims, foreign powers dominated Muslim countries, and only the name of Islam was left.

Luckily, we are born in an age when Almighty God has once again fulfilled His promise by transforming the long state of fear into a state of security. Through the appearance of the Promised Messiah and, after him, the establishment of the institution of Khilafat among the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, we have witnessed the fulfillment of Allah's promise in our own time. In his book *Al-Wasiyyat* the Promised Messiah gave the glad tiding of the "second manifestation" which will be ever-lasting and unending until the Day of Judgement.

Along with so many other signs, the establishment of Khilafat in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is proof of the truth of Ahmadiyyat. The promise of Allah is that "those among you who believe and do good works" shall be blessed with Khilafat. After the thirty years of Khilafat-i-Rashida many people tried to establish Khilafat. At one time, a strong political movement was launched to re-introduce Khilafat. Inspite of the leadership of some of the most renowned orators like Maulana Muhammed Ali Jauher, the movement failed miserably because it did not fulfill the Qur'anic criterion of entitlement to Khilafat — true belief and good deeds. The firm establishment of Khilafat among the Ahmadis and the unflinching support and deep-seated love that every Ahmadi has for the Khalifa is a blessing of God and a sign of truth of Ahmadiyyat for those who have an open mind.

May Allah the Exalted enable all of us to be truly grateful for this blessing and may He grant us the ability to faithfully abide by the commandments of the Khalifa of the time. May He grant a long and prosperous period of Khilafat upon our beloved leader, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih IV, and enable the Community to march forward under his leadership and direction. Ameen.

LIMITED TIME DEDICATION TO SERVE IN RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE

We remind all members once again about the opportunity Allah has provided to serve Islam by dedicating ourselves for a limited time to serve in Russia and Eastern Europe. The following letter from the Vakiluttabshir is self-explanatory:

The Amir/President Jamaat Ahmadiyya,
Assalamo Alaikum warahmatullahe wabarakatuhoo,

Subject: Waqf-i-Arzi to Russia &
East European Countries

A circular was sent to you through which you were asked to urge the members of your Jamaat to participate in Waqf Arzi Scheme. The purpose of this scheme in general is that some of those members of your Jamaat who might have the means and time to undertake journey to foreign countries should offer their services under this blessed scheme. Detailed information regarding Waqf Arzi was also provided.

You are aware of the recent changes that are taking place in Russia and other East European countries. With particular reference to these countries, Huzoor has now invited application from such volunteers who could afford to go to these countries. Of course they shall generally have to bear the expenses as well as make the travel arrangements.

Nevertheless, even those who are unable to bear their expenses but are desirous to volunteer for these countries could also write to Huzoor. In this regard Huzoor said on the occasion of International Majlis Shura 1990:

"But there are also some Ahmadis with the grace of Allah who are very devout, who cannot find time but who have offered me their contributions, their willingness to contribute to the scheme so that on their behalf somebody else should be sent to Russia. That offer will be utilized for sending official central representatives as well as for helpig those who cannot foot their own bills and financially they feel weak but otherwise we believe they would be a suitable ambassador to Russia.

"So if there are other such Waqfeen-i-Arzi who can not spend on the tour from their own pocket they should not hesitate to write to me and explain the situation."

Please note that the offers of intending Waqfeen should be sent with the recommendation of the Amir to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih through Additional Wakil-ut-Tabshir London and the following particulars should be mentioned.

Name .
Age
Education
Languages which you can speak
Duration of Waqf offered starting from?.....
Which country you offer to visit as Waqf Arzi i.e. Russia or any other Eastern European country, Poland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Albania etc.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mansoor Ahmad Khan
Vakiluttabshir, Rabwah

ETIQUETTES OF MEETING HUZOOR

1. All brothers and sisters should spend the period of Huzoor's visit to the United States in the remembrance of Allah and sincere prayers for the success of the visit.
2. When meeting Huzoor, do not present flowers or garlands and do not touch knees, etc. Dress neatly and modestly.
3. In a meeting, if Huzoor asks a question, the respondent should stand up to give the reply and give the reply with respect and a soft voice.
4. Never raise your voice above the voice of Huzoor.
5. If you have a question, seek permission to ask by raising your hand.
6. Photography should only be done under the auspices of the Jama'at by authorized photographers.
7. If Huzoor has given an answer, listen to it and ponder over it; do not start a debate.
8. If you or your child has a contagious disease, please let Huzoor know.

MAULANA SHEIKH MUBARAK AHMAD RETIRES FROM ACTIVE SERVICE

After rendering most commendable and whole hearted service to the cause of Islam and Ahmadiyyat for more than half a century, Maulana Shiekh Mubarak Ahmad retired from active duty in May, 1991. Communities all over the United States held functions in his honor. Some glimpses are provided here.

I.

Representatives of the entire community officially said farewell to Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad during the Majlis Shura in Cleveland. The address given by Sahibzada M.M. Ahmad, Amir, U.S.A., is given below:

As you all know by now, Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad Sahib, Missionary in Charge USA is due to retire on May 5, 1991 after a long, dedicated and distinguished service of Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. The present function with the presence of representatives of all the 36 Chapters and National Aamla members is organized in his honor.

Sheikh Sahib has the rare distinction of having served the community for close to 60 years—an honor which he can rejoice and be proud of with full satisfaction. He became a devotee (*Waqif-e-Zindgi*) at a young age, pledging his life in the service of the community and has fulfilled his pledge with full loyalty and faith.

He served as Missionary in East Africa for 27 years (1934-1962) and was among the pioneer missionaries on the African continent and had the honor of contributing to the translation of the Holy Quran in Swahili language. On return from East Africa he served in various important capacities at the International Headquarters of the Movement before his assignment as Ameer and Missionary Incharge to U.K. from 1979 to 1983. His next assignment was to U.S.A. where he has served the Jamaat for 7 years. In both U.K. and U.S.A. he took special interest and worked hard for the establishment of Mission Houses and Mosques in successful fulfillment of the schemes launched by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih.

The dedication of the whole life in service of Islam is a sacred pledge and trust and should continue to command the honor and respect of every Ahmadi. They are the soldiers of Islam who carry the message to all, undertake the training of Ahmadis and are charged to create around them a body of "Daeen Il-allahs" to multiply their own efforts manifold so that every Ahmadi becomes an ambassador of Islam and is imbued with the same zeal and inspiration as is the true hallmark of Missionaries of Ahmadis.

We honor and salute them and today in particular Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad who steps into retirement after a long and distinguished service of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. We members of U. S. Jamaat wish him and his family good health and every happiness in his retirement.

Our best wishes and prayers remain with you always, Sheikh Sahib.

As a token of our esteem and regard, I have the privilege to present to you a small gift on behalf of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat of U.S.A.

II.

The Washington Metro Chapter held a grand luncheon meeting in honor of Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad on Sunday, May 5, in a local school hall. Members from Baltimore and other places also attended. The Amir, Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad was seated at the center of the stage while the meeting was presided over by Chaudhry Allah Baksh, the local president. The meeting started with recitation of the Holy Quran and an Urdu poem of the Promised Messiah. Brother Kalim Ullah Khan read a poem of two verses written by himself about the service to Islam and humanity by the honored guest. Missionary Mubashir Ahmad then said a few introductory words about a poem in Urdu compiled by himself on this occasion.

In his speech, Chaudhry Allah Baksh mentioned that Maulana Sheikh Mubarak devoted his life for the cause of Ahmadiyyat from his youth and has had the honor to serve the Movement in the States. He mainly focused on the services rendered by him as the Secretary of the *Fazl-e-Umar Foundation,* making it financially and administratively a very sound and productive institution of our Movement.

In the end, Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad addressed the gathering. He began by thanking the Amir and the organizers of this function. Maulana Sheikh Mubarak mentioned the following five major points of advice for the gathering:

A view of the national Farewell reception given to Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad.

A scene from a farewell dinner arranged in honor of Maulana Mubarak Ahmad Sahib at his retirement from active service to the Jamaat

1) All Ahmadis must continuously strive to gain *"ilm-e-deen"* that is the knowledge of our faith, Islam.
2) Our pure Islamic spiritual values must always be upheld. We will be successful only if we uphold these values and act upon them in our daily lives.
3) In the light of numerous examples, quoted from the life history of the companions of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.), he advised brothers and sisters to inculcate in themselves, the true Islamic spirit of sacrifice by always remaining ready to give away our life, our belongings and our honor in the cause of Allah, the Almighty.
4) Our way of life should be the pure and simple Islamic way of life. It must be based upon the golden Principle of *Taqwa*—fear of God Almighty in our heart and soul.
5) Every Ahmadi must strive to give utmost respect and due honor to the sacred *Nizam-e-Khilafat* — Institution of Khilafat, and to the Khalifa of the time. We must not only try to be most humble and obedient ourselves but must always inculcate the same spirit in our children and other members.

Continuing his speech, Maulana Sheikh mentioned that our Muslim brothers constitute about one fourth of the entire world population. Inspite of this tremendous numerical strength, they are passing through great and overwhelming dangers and are unable to unite. He said by the grace of Allah our Movement is always making tremendous progress and has been able to give selfless service to Islam and mankind unsurpassed by others. *Wa ma taufikana illah billah* We are able to achieve this distinction only because we are always being rightly guided by the Khalifa.

To conclude this part of the program, Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad led the gathering in silent prayers. A delicious lunch was served and was enjoyed by everybody.

III.

On Saturday, April 13th, during the month of Ramadan, the New York Jamaat had the opportunity to honor our beloved Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad on his retirement at "Iftari" time. After recitation of the Holy Quran, our Muballigh, Mukhtar A. Cheema, addressed the audience. He said that Sheikh Sahib's service of 58 years towards the cause of Islam and Ahmadiyyat was not an easy job. The services rendered by our Missionaries in Africa were a great sacrifice on their part. Christianity was at its peak and our Missionaries had to oppose the strongly grounded Christian Missionaries in Africa. Sheikh Saheb's service of nearly 27 years was a great sacrifice and a great blessing of Allah. Cheema Saheb went on to say that it is not a simple gathering today, we should ponder how our Missionaries gave great sacrifices. The Promised Messiah says "The life of Islam demands from us a great sacrifice, that we should be prepared to give our lives for it." He concluded by requesting the members to remember Sheikh Saheb in their prayers and all the Missionaries and ponder how we can serve the cause of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. After that Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad Saheb addressed the gathering. He said that all this work was possible due to the willing co-operation of the Community. The last 58 years of humble services were accomplished by advises of Khalifas II, III (May Allah be pleased with them) and now our present Khalifa, (May Allah be his Helper and Guide). It was their prayers and the prayers of the Community and their willing co-operation and sacrifice which was the real source for these achievements.

In the end Sheikh Sahib requested all the Jamaat members to pray for him and in a very emotional tone expressed that if he had committed any mistake to forgive him. After that the President, Nazir Ayaz Saheb gave an address to Sheikh Mubarak Saheb on behalf of the New York Jamaat in which he thanked him and prayed for his long, happy, and blissful retirement.

GREEK TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY QURAN APPRECIATED BY GREEK-SPEAKING PEOPLE

Good News! The Greek translation of the Holy Quran is among those that have recently been circulated, and by the Grace of Allah, it has been greatly appreciated among Greek speaking people. A book review has been written in praise of it in the New York daily Greek Newspaper, *Proini*. The writer of the article, Reggina Pagoulatou, states that the translation of the Holy Quran is written with "great skill in our language by Loris Arntz." The reporter highly praises the explanation of Arabic words at the end of the index and writes that they "are of exceptional help to the reader for the concept of the holy messages and ideas." The reporter goes further by thanking the Jamaat for inviting the Greek community to our Religious Paradise while honoring their culture and language.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL MAJLIS E SHURA 1991

Baitul Ahad, Cleveland, Ohio, April 26-28, 1991

"And those who hearken to their Lord, and observe Prayer, and whose affairs are decided by mutual consultation, and who spend out of what We have provided for them." (42:39)

The proceedings of Majlis-e-Shura commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran and the translation of the recited portion by Missionary Inamul Haq Kausar. The Amir USA Jamaat, Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad Sahib, opened the 1991 Majlise Shura with collective prayers led by Maulana Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad. The Sahibzada Sahib then welcomed the members of the National Executives, Presidents and delegates from 36 US Jamaats to the Majlise Shura 1991. He made reference to his inaugural remarks made at the Majlis-e-Shura 1990 regarding the objectives laid down by Hazrat Musleh Mauood, may Allah be pleased with him, in the very first Shura of 1922.

The Amir of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat, USA, Hazrat Sahibzada Sahib, grandson of the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, peace be on him, embarked upon the agenda items. He introduced the Shura 1991 documents. Forty-seven proposals had been received from the Jamaats. While this was a happy sign indicative of the involvement of the Jamaats in their affairs, on the other hand, these were too many to be discussed within the time available, as well as for other reasons, which in no way reflected upon the relative importance of those proposals. The agenda documented the reasons for their exclusion. Certain proposals could be discussed locally or addressed administratively.

The Sahibzada Sahib exhorted the delegates to pray to the Almighty Allah to seek His guidance in arriving at correct decisions in the spirit of taqwa. He then dwelt at length on the items requiring special attention:

a) **Tabligh:** He asked the delegates to carefully examine and discuss the methods as well as aproaches to be adopted for successful tabligh;

b) **Tarbiyyat:** An area where we needed to protect our heritage and legacy and values from constant attacks in the West by conducting programs on Islamic teachings and ethics to produce wholesome results; and most importantly, to produce a generation that would shoulder future responsibilities in the years ahead;

c) **Finance:** Extra efforts to pick up the slack in the remaining months; the Amir Sahib set the ambitious target to raise the budget to 3 million dollars in the next three years; the elimination of the category D; financial needs of the Washington Mosque Project; and the fulfillment of pledges towards the US Jamaat's guest house at Qadian for the Jalsa Salana this year;

d) **Rishta Naata:** An area where disturbing trends were noticeable and there was a need to cultivate a society for the flourishment of Islam;

e) Submission of material for Huzoor's Annual Address at the UK Jalsa;

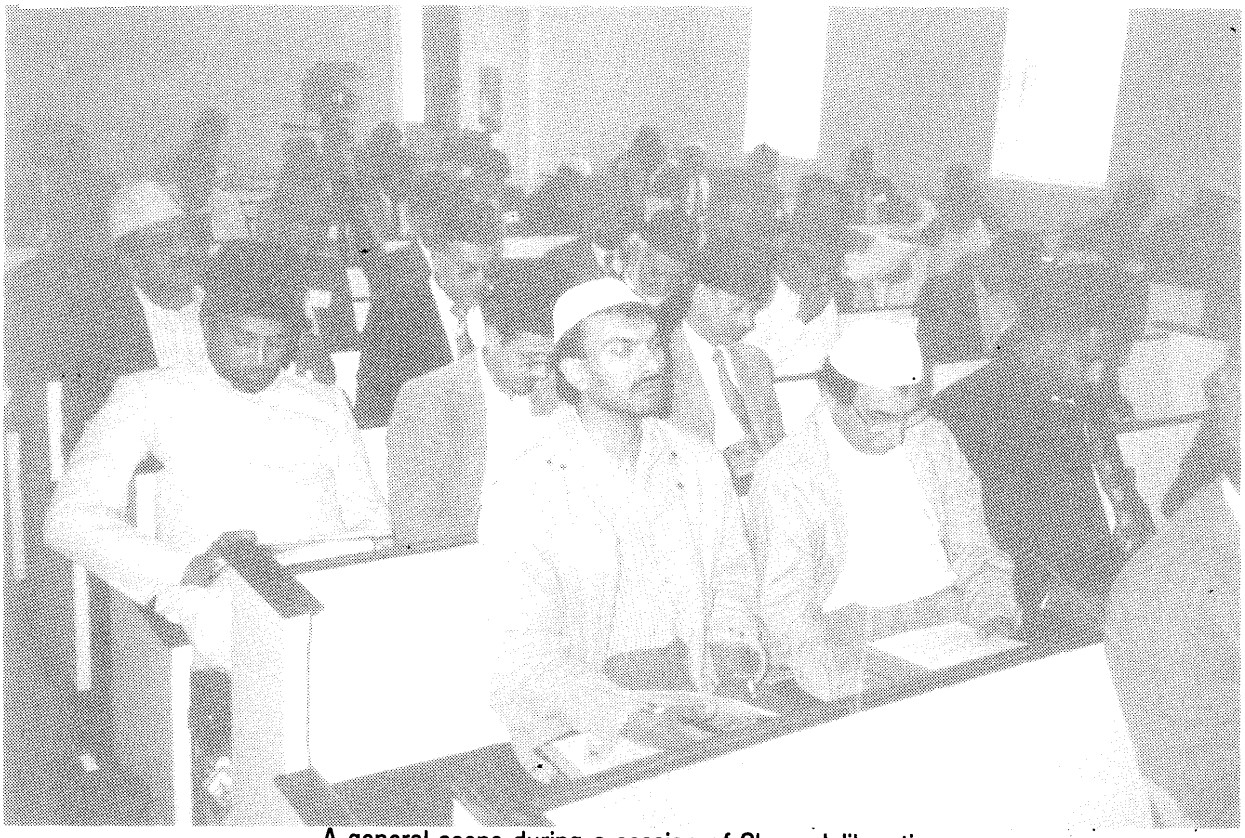
At 5:30 pm Hazrat Sahibzada Sahib asked the General Secretary, Dr. Masoud Ahmad Malik, to read the minutes of the Shura of 1990. These minutes were then confirmed. The delegates were then asked to read for themselves the Progress Report on the implementation of the last Majlis-i-Shura decisions—a document that had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The General Secretary then read out the agenda items.

At 5:40 (20 minutes ahead of schedule) the Finance Secretary, Mr. Mubarak Ahmad Malik presented the 1991-92 proposed budget, including a graphic presentation of the expenditure and income items with explanations and footnotes. He noted that the largest increase (50%) had been experienced in Tahrik-e-Jadid. Overall collections were the highest this year.

Sub-Committees for Tabligh, Finance, General and Taleem-o-Tarbiyat were formed. These sub-Committees started their respective meetings under the leadership of their Chairmen. Some concluded their deliberations the same evening while others went far into the night and over to the next morning.

The second formal session started at 2:00 pm on Sunday with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Missionary Azhar Haneef. The Amir, Sahibzada Sahib, invited the sub-Committee Chairmen and their secretaries to be seated on the stage area behind the podium. The first report was submitted by the Tabligh Sub-Committee. Each delegate was then invited to express his/her views. At the end of these presentations, the Amir Sahib succinctly summarized these views and comprehensively formulated his recommendations for further action.

The Amir, Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad Sahib, addressing the USA Shura, 1991.



A general scene during a session of Shura deliberations.

The Sub-Committees on General and Taleem-o-Tarbiyat matters presented their reports. A well organized discussion followed. The Amir Sahib gave important organizational advice on certain points in the report that needed amendment.

The Lajna delegates were invited to voice their opinions. Their suggestions, reports and proposals were heard in respectful silence by the men-delegates. Amir Sahib wound up their session by summarizing their suggestions. He recommended suggestions for implementing the Lajna's suggestions.

In his concluding remarks, the Amir, Sahibzada Mirza Muzaffar Ahmad, reiterated the special emphasis on meeting our obligations on a timely basis, especially with regards to reaching financial goals. He hoped that the U.S. Jamaat should be Number One and excell every other Jamaat in the entire world in every field.

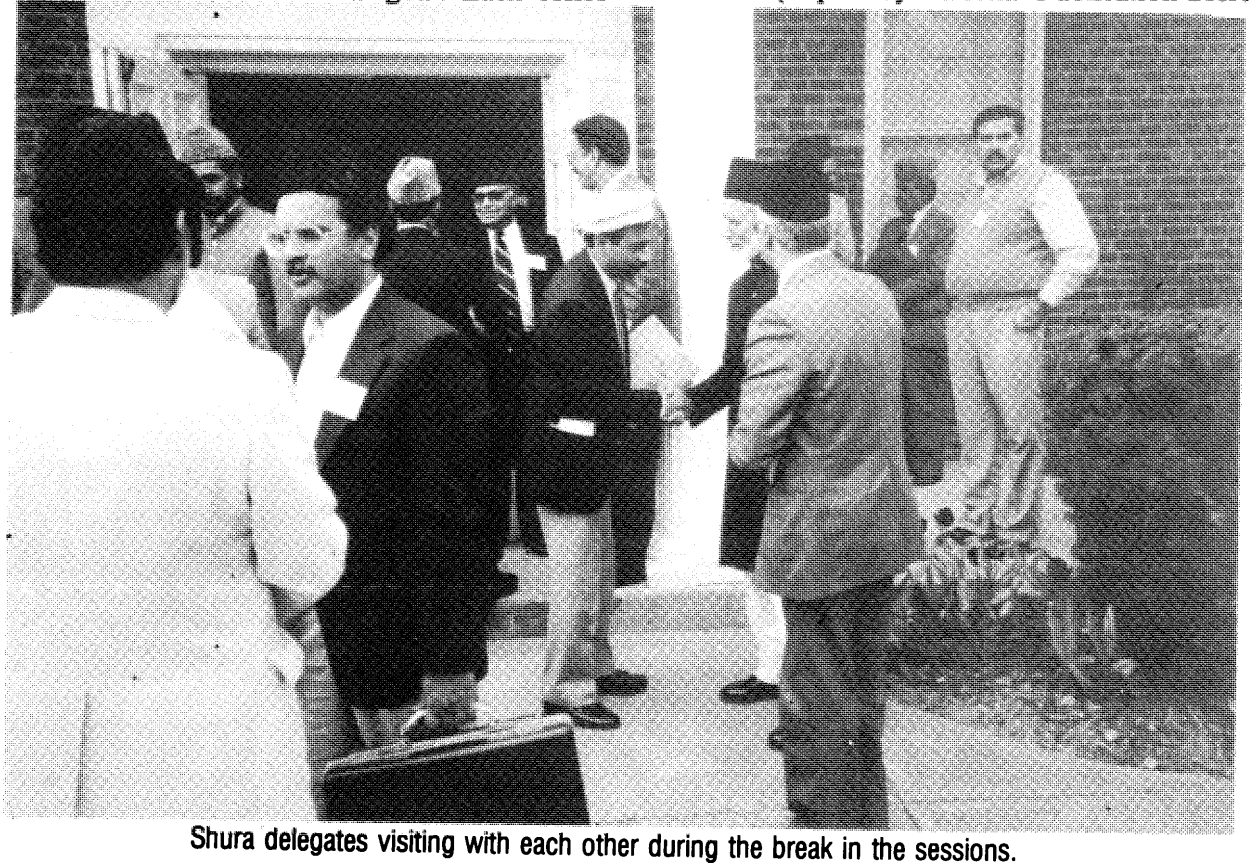
He said that there was a need to constantly remind ourselves that we have a long way to go. The Almighty Allah had ordained that we will be the dominant religion. One third of the period towards the fulfillment of that prophecy had passed away. Tremendous tasks lie ahead. We should work tirelessly to regain the supremacy of Islam. We should strive towards the achievement of that goal. Each office holder should have printed sticker that should ask: *"What have I done today in the service of Islam?"*

He quoted the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, peace be on him, from Malfoozat, referring to his admonition to fear God—that those who do not become Godly are mercilessly sacrificed like useless weeds that are weeded out by the gardener; that we should strive to be included among those near to the Almighty God; that we should give up all internal strife, bury all differences and have brotherly love for each other. We should make peace with Allah and run to seek His shelter. We should work for the attainment of lofty goals.

The respected Amir Sahib exhorted the delegates to pray for Huzoor Ayyad Allah for the *Aseerane Raahe Maula,* for all Ahmadis facing persecution, for all Missionaries and for all the devotees; for the volunteer workers. Lastly, he asked them to pray for the Cleveland Jamaat for its splendid arrangements. He said that Dua or supplication was the hallmark of the Jamaat. Indeed, it was its atomic bomb — the source of growth and progress. No worldly effort could be truly successful without prayers, he said.

In conclusion, the Sahibzada Sahib led all in collective prayers.

(Report by National Publication Secretary)



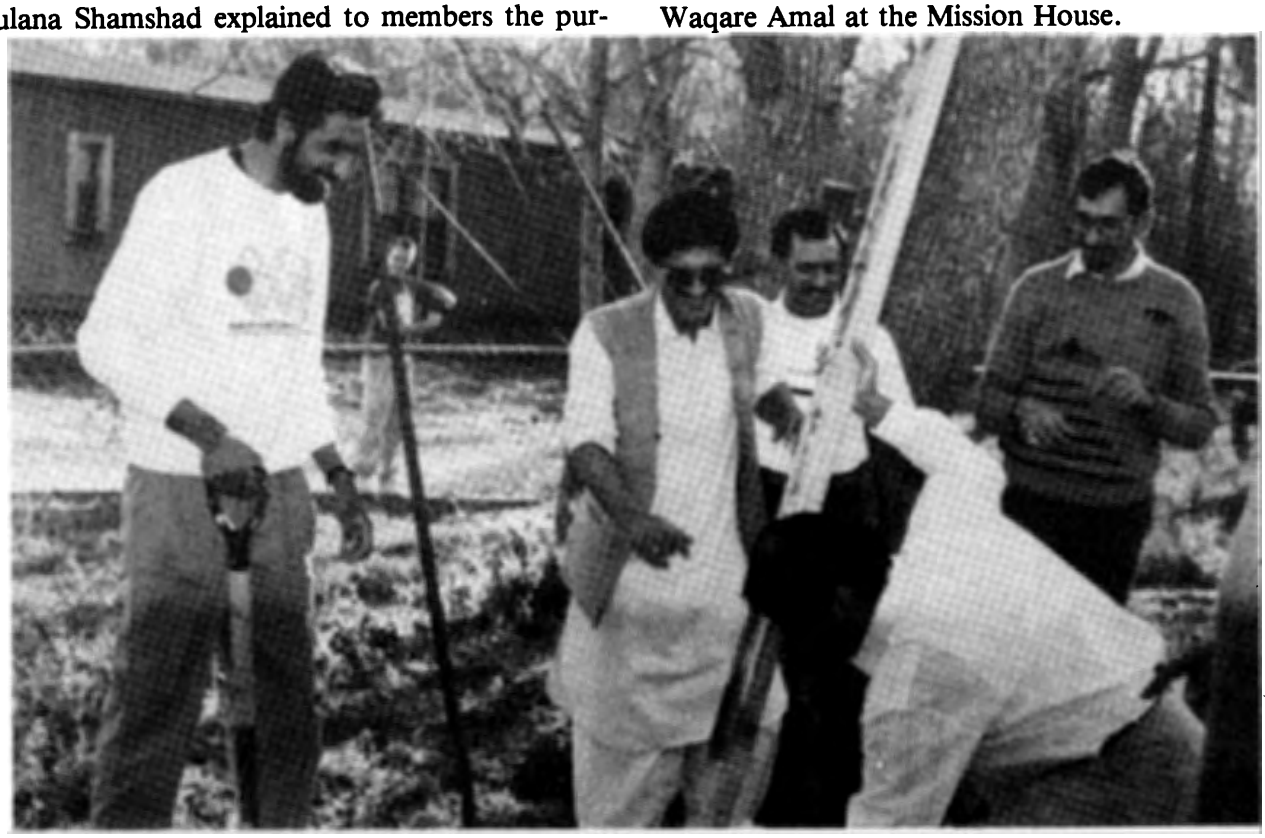
Shura delegates visiting with each other during the break in the sessions.

LOCAL JAMA'AT REPORTS

BALTIMORE, MD: During the month of March, our Missionary Mubashir Ahmad was invited to deliver lectures on some current topics on Islam. He delivered lectures at John Hopkins University and another local college about true teachings of Islam on Jihad. In this way he was able to remove a lot of misgivings about Islam.

DAYTON, OH: During the month of April the following activities were reported: 1) Maulana Shamshad hosted, a group of 7 Christian students and their 4 advisors in the Masjid for a discussion on Islam; 2) Al-Haj Muzaffar Ahmad Zafr lectured to a group of approx. 150 inmates at the London Correctional Institution; 3) Bro. Abdul Shakur Ahmad distributed invitations for Id-ul-Fitr to residents in a 3 block radius of the Masjid. Approx. 10 guests came to the festival; 4) By the Grace of Allah, 5 people joined the fold of Ahmadiyyat. Alhamdo Lillah. May Allah make them sincere and steadfast Ahmadis. During the month of May the following activities were reported: 1) Bro. Abdul Shakur Ahmad conducted a Tabligh Workshop for Jamaat members at Masjid. Maulana Shamshad explained to members the purpose and definition of Dai Ilallah scheme; Bro. Shakur presented the Principles of Effective Preaching, guidelines given by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV and various members shared their experiences on tabligh efforts; 2)Maulana Shamshad and Nadeem Ahmad, Qaid Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya spoke with a group of non-Muslims (approx. 18) about Islam and Ahmadiyyat; 3) Al-Haj M.A. Zafr delivered Juma Services to Approx. 150 inmates at the Lebanon Correctional Institution.

HOUSTON, TX: The first state-wide Ijtema of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya was held during March. Khuddam and atfal from Houston, Dallas, College Station and San Antonio participated in two days of spiritual and physical exercises. Speeches were delivered by Dr. Qamar Ahmad Shams, Sadr Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, USA., Mirza Mahmood Ahmad, the Southern Region missionary and Brother Nasir (of Spain). Competitions were held for games and sports, speeches and written tests for general and religious knowledge. Awards and certificates were given to winners. All participants also took part in Waqare Amal at the Mission House.



The Khuddam of Houston, performing *Waqar-i-Amal.*

NEW ORLEANS, LA: Our monthly meeting was held on June 2, 1991, at Mission House in Kenner, Louisiana. The program was opened by the recitation of the Holy Quran by Riaz Shams, and a poem by Bashir Shams. This meeting was dedicated to Khilafat Day and speeches were delivered by Sheikh Ataurrabb, Dr. Qazi Barkat Ullah, Dr. Safir Ahmad and Bashir Shams about the definition, need, importance, and sanctity of the institution of Khilafat.

Graduations: Prayers were held for the two young fellows of our Jamaat who recently graduated from their educational institutions. Sheikh Ataurrabb who is the son of our former President Sheikh Rashid Ahmed and grandson of Sheikh Mubarak Ahmed received his B.Sc. in Biology from Baylor University and will resume studies at the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans.

NEW YORK, NY: An estimated gathering of 800 people attended our Eid-ul-Fitr prayers lead by our Missionary for S.E. Region, Maulana Mukhtar Cheema. A letter was sent to the World Headquarters of Hasidic Jews in reference to their belief about the coming of a Messiah. We informed them that the Promised Messiah for whom people of the world have been waiting has actually come in the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian. We proposed a meeting with them to discuss our beliefs.

Cable TV in Queens and parts of Brooklyn telecast a program on "Women in Islam". Our sisters Ruxsana Nasir and Khullat Alladin presented Islamic point of view on the subject. The Community Channels also showed some of our activities.

Copies of the translations of the Holy Quran were displayed at a Quran Exhibition. Several ethnic areas belonging to the Chinese and Korean immigrants were visited to introduce the Holy Quran to them. Several more are planned during the next few months for different communities.

NORTH JERSEY: The regular monthly meeting of the Jamaat was held on March the 3rd. Jalal Latif read traditions of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) about honoring the learned and the great. Karimullah Zirvi read portions from Malfoozat of the Promised Messiah. Dr. Imtiaz Chaudhary explained portions of the Holy Quran relating to financial sacrifices in the cause of Allah urging members to be steadfast in paying their chanda dues regularly. Mr. Naeem Chaudhry read portions from the Friday sermon of Hazoor delivered on Nov. 24, 1989, and related details about "Tolerance" as explained by Hazoor in the light of the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet of Islam (S.A.W.) Mr. Salim Nasir Malik urged members to increase their knowledge about the religion of Islam so that they feel confident to do tabligh. During the function of Massieh Mauood Day, speeches were delivered about the life and teachings of the Promised Messiah (A.S.)

ROCHESTER, NY: During the month of March, Massih Mauood Day was celebrated in a befitting way. Four speeches were delivered on various aspects of the life of the Promised Messiah. Nadim Malik described the family background and early life of the Promised Messiah. Dr. Munir Ahmad presented a very impressive account of the accomplishments of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad the Promised Messiah, in service of Islam and mankind in general. Ch. Abdul Majeed clarified various general beliefs of Muslims about the advent of Mahdi, proving beyond doubt that all prophecies concerning the coming of a promised reformer were fulfilled in the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. Mirza Naseer Ahmad spoke about prophecies mentioned in the Holy Quran and the Traditions of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) about the advent of a Reformer.

Khilafat day was celebrated on May 5th 1991. Meeting started at Noon with the recitation of Holy Quran by Mirza Naseer Ahmad followed with Poem of Musleh Maud by Abdul Hakeem Nasar.

First speaker was young Brother Zobair Rehman who described the Promised Messiah's demise and election of Hakeem Noor-ud-din as the first successor.Inspite of internal as well as external opposition. Allah showed His mercy and fulfilled His promise of second Manifestation every time a new successor was elected.

Daud Munawar spoke about the responsibilities of members as parents, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. He emphasized on proper training of our children and teaching them Islamic values. He asked all members to make sure that Friday sermon tapes are played regularly in the presence of all family members.

Last of all Naim Malik talked about the importance and significance of the office of Khilafat to carry on the gigantic task of Reformation initiated by the Promised Messiah. He quoted from the Promised Messiah's writings about Allah's promise to continue His blessings and mercy on the followers of Promised Messiah if they honestly adhere to the Khilafat.

(continued on page 26)

LAJNA MONTHLY REPORT-APRIL, 1991

BOSTON: Average attendance for the month is 8. Propagation: Three people were preached to this month. Social: Lajna donated meat to a Church Outreach Program for feeding homeless people. Sports/Health: We played table tennis in the Mission House.

DAYTON: Average attendance for the month is 6. Education: We are reviewing for the National Test. Propagation: Five people have been preached to this month. Social: A Hospitality Committee has been formed. Emphasis will be placed on making guests feel welcome and comfortable. We held our monthly Feed the Hungry Day on 4-17-91. We served approximately 70 people in the Mosque and community. Candy was given to the children and clothing was distributed. A sister is working on a Feed the Hungry Project at school. Another member is working on the SCAN Hotline. Food was donated to the food pantry. Handicraft: Sisters are working on coloring books and games for the Convention. Health/Sports: A sister read material on the Prohibition of Alcohol. She also gave verses from the Holy Quran on how alcohol hinders one from praying to Allah, it is an abomination, it keeps one from remembering Allah, and it is the handiwork of Satan. Moral Training: A poem was read on Ramazan.

DETROIT: Lajna dues were collected. Propagation: Our propagation efforts in Dai Ilallah has increased from 80 to 97. Social: Sisters visited a member who is ill. Publication: One of our members wrote an article on The Status of Women in Islam. It was published in the *Kalamazoo Star.* Handicraft: We are working on duputtas for the Convention. Tarik-i-Jadid: Lajna has pledged $5,939 for the year.

HOUSTON Average attendance for the month is 20. Lajna dues were collected. Education: We completed Sura Al Nur. We studied important words and learned to practice the commandments in the Holy Quran so we will be granted higher rank and status in the next life (Insah Allah). Propagation: Four people have been preached to this month. A copy of the Holy Quran and the Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam was distributed. Ahmadiyyat and marriage in Islam was discussed. Social: Sisters are volunteering for the Sheltering Arms, a branch of the United Way. Moral Training: An article on Fasting was read during the month of Ramazan. Holy Quran was recited (verses 182-185 Al Baqarah). A poem was read from Dure Samin and two ahadith were read. Handicraft: We are making a table cloth for the Regional Fund raiser. Tarik-i-Jadid: 16 members pledged $350 (14 Nasirat also pledged).

LOS ANGELES: Average attendance for the month is 60. Propagation: 20 people were preached to this month. Social: Canned goods were donated to the Association of Retarded Citizens for Earthquake Preparation in San Bernadino. We visited the Ontario Nursing Home and participated in a rummage bake sale. Publication: Subscriptions were collected for the Ayesha Magazine. An essay and poem have been sent in for publication. Handicraft: We are completing dupata for the Convention. Sisters have completed 6 suits.

NEW ORLEANS: Average attendance for the month is 10. Lajna dues were collected. Education: We studied Sura Al Nur, Ruku 4. Important words were discussed. We also discussed the Islamic code of law between the male and female, witnesses required for different types of testimony, and why adultery is the most heinous of all social evils. We also covered 23 questions from the study guide. Propagation: Two people were preached to this month. Social: We donated canned goods and clothes to the Salvation Army of New Orleans. Moral Training: We are being reminded to observe purdah and follow Islamic teachings. Handicraft: We are working on capes for the Convention. Health: The sisters blood pressure is being checked frequently. Tarik-i-Jadid & Waqf-i-Jadid: All Lajna members have pledged and paid in full.

NEW YORK: Average attendance for the month is 70. Lajna dues were collected. Propagation: Two members participated in a cable program. The topic was Jesus in the Bible. 14 people were preached to this month. Social: A sister is taking her neighbor's children to school and giving rides to the elderly for shopping. Sisters visited a member who is ill and gave her a gift. Publication: Several members have written articles for the Ayesha Magazine. Handicraft: Sisters made small items for the Local Ijtema that was held on 4-21-91. We have completed burkas for Convention and are now working on dupattas. Tarik-i-Jadid: We pledged $1,596.50. 35 sisters have paid. Waqf-i-Jadid: $791 has been pledged. Sports/Health: Sisters are exercising at home or health centers and walking. We held our Local Ijtema at the Bait-ul-Zafar Mosque. 13 sisters participated in the recitation of the

Holy Quran, 7 in Hadith, 3 in speeches (English and Urdu), 13 in Urdu poem, and 5 in English. 35 members took the Religious Knowledge test and 16 members participated in Bait Bazi. $102 was collected from the handicraft items and the money was donated to the Mosque Fund. Prizes and certificates were distributed to members.

PITTSBURGH: Average attendance for the month is 5. Education: We studied Surah Al Nur and the study questions. Yassarnal Quran lessons are given to Lajna members who aren't reading the Holy Quran. We are reading The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam. Propagation: 2 people have been preached to this month. Social: Food was collected and given to a needy family. We also helped a lady visit a relative in the hospital. Several members are active in volunteering their services. We visited Sister Elahee who is in a nursing home, and Sister Ahmed who has been in the hospital. Please remember them in your prayers. Publication: Sisters have pledged to subscribe to the Ayesha Magazine. Moral Training: We recite hadith and read from Psalms of Ahmad. We also check to see if the prayer lines are straight in Juma prayer. Home study has been given to the sisters consisting of learning prayers in Arabic and English, reading the Holy Quran after Fajr prayer, listen to Hazur's tapes, and read the books of the Promised Messiah. (AS) Handicraft: We are making prayer caps.

SAN JOSE: Average attendance for the month is 17. Lajna dues have been paid. Education: We have completed Sura Al Nur. We took the National test. Members are reading a book of the Promised Messiah (AS). Propagation: A copy of The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam was given to Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin. She sent a letter of thanks. A Lajna member gave a speech at the San Jose State University on Ahmadiyyat and Purdah. Flyers were sent to all assemblymembers of California. Topics were: Deliverance from the Cross, What is Ahmadiyyat?, What is Islam and Its Message, and Why I Believe in Islam. A copy of the Holy Quran and two copies of the Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam were presented to members of the Catholic Church. Social: Members are individually distributing canned goods, clothing, shoes, and household items to shelters, Good Will, Salvation Army, and the Cancer Society. Arrangements have been made for members to serve dinner at the Casa de Clara Catholic Worker where single women and women with children stay temporarily. Moral Training: Lajna meetings are being conducted in an organized manner, the Holy Quran is read regularly, we check lines for salat, listen quietly to Khutbas, and listen to Hazur's tapes. Handicraft: Members are working on dresses for Convention. Health/Sports: Sisters are eating properly and exercising. A pamphlet was distributed on Goal: To Reduce Cancer Risks and Quiz Tells How Well You Know Your Diet. Tarik-i-Jadid: $536 was pledged. Waqf-i-Jadid:$227 was pledged.

SEATTLE: Average attendance for the month is 2. Education: We are preparing for the National Test by using the Study Guide. Propagation: 3 people have been preached to this month. Handicraft: 2 dupattas are being made.

TUCSON: Average attendance for the month is 7. Education: We studied Sura Al Nisa, Ruku 1. Important words were discussed and sisters are reviewing questions of Sura Al Nur. Propagation: 4 people were preached to this month. Social: Lajna donated $25 to help purchase canned goods for the poor, coloring books, crayons, and watercolor paint sets that were donated to the Pediatric Ward. Publication: Lajna members will subscribe to the Ayesha Magazine for the Mosque Library. A poem was submitted for publication. Moral Training: Lajna members were reminded to observe proper purdah, practice Hazur's 5 points, recite the Holy Quran daily, hold weekly discussions of the Holy Quran, Hadith, and Sunnah, listen to Hazur's cassettes, read Noah's Ark, The Will, keep themselves and their homes clean and learn the assigned prayers. Sisters have learned 17 vs. of the Holy Quran. A speech was given on Cleanliness and how it was observed by the Holy Prophet (SAWS). Handicraft: Sisters are working on dupattas for Convention. Sports/Health: A speech was given on the Consequences of High Cholesterol and how to Lower it. Sisters are working on their weight and maintaining a healthy diet. Tarik-i-Jadid: $198 was collected. Waqf-i-Jadid: $2 was collected.

WASHINGTON: Average attendance for the month is 80. Lajna dues were collected. Education: We reviewed Sura Al Nur this month. Members have been meeting every Friday after Juma to learn prayers and ask questions regarding Holy Quran. Propagation: 33 people have been preached to this month. A sister preached to her class on the Concept of Islam. Two articles have been published in the Diamondback Newspaper. Literature has been distributed. Moral Training: We are reading Blessings of Prayer. Our Lajna was the host for the Southeast Regional Ijtema. 75 members and 30 Nasirat participated. Competition was held in Talawat, poems, speeches, religious knowledge questions, sports, and games.

We are concentrating on Islamic etiquette. A panel discussion was held on Growing Up Muslim in Different Cultures. Social: We donated clothing to needy families and AMVETS. We helped a needy lady get Sadqa, visited the sick, prayed for sisters and families suffering illnesses and gave donations to Hazur's scheme for food for Africa. Exhibition: A fundraiser was held at the Ijtema to raise funds for the Southeast Region treasury. Four shalwar and kameeze sets and an embroidered dupatta have been completed for Convention. Publication: Two articles have been sent to the newspapers. Sports/Health: We had games of tug of war, sack races, jump rope, dodge ball, musical chairs, and board games.

ZION: Average attendance for the month is 7. Lajna dues were collected. Education: We have taken the test on Sura Al Nur. We are studying Yassarnal and Holy Quran. Propagation: Two people have been preached to this month. A packet is being put together to be used for propagation and for new converts. Social: A Penny Collection for the Washington Mosque has been completed. $100 was sent to National. Tarik-i-Jadid & Waqf-i-Jadid: $25 pledges have been paid in full.

NASIRAT REPORT FOR APRIL, 1991

LOS ANGELES: 7-9: Average attendance for the month is 10. We are learning obligatory prayers, Yassarnal Quran and Holy Quran in Arabic, memorizing the last five Surahs of the Holy Quran, hadith, attributes, and made speeches. We are reading the *Golden Deeds of Muslims.* 10-12: Average attendance for the month is 10. We have been tested in salat, learning obligatory prayers, learning to read the Holy Quran, memorizing the first ten verses of Sura Al-Baqarah, memorized hadiths, prayers, attributes and made speeches. We are discussing general knowledge questions and reading *Our Teachings.* 13-15: All the Nasirat are knowledgeable of their prayers. We are studying the 5th part of the Holy Quran, memorizing the first 17 verses of Surah Al-Baqarah, made a response to Sura Al-Ala and Sura Ghashiya, and wrote an essay on the benefits of Purdah. Assigned speeches have been made.

NEW YORK: 8-10: Average attendance for the month is 4. We are learning the Yassarnal Quran, Holy Quran in Arabic, read the Holy Quran daily, learning obligatory prayers, memorizing the last 5 Surahs of the Holy Quran, hadiths, attributes, and reading *Stories From Early Islam.* 11-13: Average attendance for the month is 2. We have been tested in Salat, learning obligatory prayers, learning to read the Holy Quran, read the Holy Quran daily, memorizing the first ten verses of Surah Al-Baqarah, memorizing hadiths, prayers and attributes. We are making throw pillow covers. 14-15: The Nasirat are knowledgeable of their prayers. We are memorizing the first 17 verses of Surah Al-Baqarah, made a response to Surah Al-Ala and Surah Ghashiya. We are studying hadith in *The 40 Gems of Beauty.* We are reading *Invitation to Ahmadiyyat.* Speeches have been made. Several Nasirat have spoken to their friends about Ramadan and why we fast, and the Holy Prophet (SAWS) and Hazrat Eisa (AS). The girls helped bake cakes for the local Lajna Ijtema during Ramadhan, helped serve food and drink and clean the mosque.

PITTSBURGH: Average attendance for the month is 4. We reviewed our daily prayers and read Hadiths on salutations, eloquence in poetry, guarding the tongue from slander and abuse and joking. Handicraft items included ways of writing and displaying Kalima, making book marks and Eid and Mother's Day cards.

SAN JOSE: 7-9: We have 1 Nasirat in this age group. She is learning obligatory prayers Yassarnal Quran, memorizing the last 5 Suras of the Holy Quran, hadiths, and attributes. 10-12: We have 2 Nasirat in this age group. They have been tested in salat, learning obligatory prayers, learning to read the Holy Quran and read it daily, memorizing the first 10 verses of Sura Al-Baqarah, memorized prayers, hadiths, and attributes. We are making pot holders and book marks. We are reading *The Book of Religious Knowledge.* 13-15: The Nasirat are knowledgeable of their prayers. We are memorizing the first 17 verses of Sura Al-Baqarah, made a response to Sura Al-Ala and Sura Ghashiya, studied hadith from *Forty Gems of Beauty,* wrote an essay on The Benefits of Purdah.

TUCSON: 8-10: We are learning obligatory prayers, learning the Holy Quran in Arabic, memorizing the last five Suras of the Holy Quran, memorizing hadiths, and made speeches on Kindness Toward Youngsters. We are also memorizing attributes and answered questions on Ramadan. 11-12: We have

(continued on page 26)

INTRODUCING OUR NEWLY CONVERTED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN WASHINGTON D.C.

By Allah's grace, the Washington Jamaat has been blessed with three new adult members and three new children in April and May 1991. May Allah bless the new members and strengthen their faith and guide them to Him. We are most thankful to Almighty Allah, *Alhamdo Lillah!* May Allah continue to shower his blessings on our jamaat.

SISTER KALIMA ABDUL-SABUR AND FAMILY

Sister Kalima Abdul-Sabur has taken bait in April, and has brought her three children aged 13, 5, and 3 to the fold of Ahmadiyyat the True Islam. May Allah the Almighty bless them all abundantly with his grace and mercy. Sister Kalima is a friend of Sister Nusrat Alhadith, the wife of Nurudin Alhadith Sahib and Lajna President Sister Shakura Nooriah. Sister Nusrat and Sister Shakura had been preaching and bringing Sister Kalima to Juma. Sister Kalima also has two older sons Muhammad and Abdul-Malik who are attending Juma at the Fazl mosque. May Allah bless Sister Nusrat and Sister Shukora with more fruits and bounties.

BROTHER SADAT MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH

Brother Abdullah has taken bait in May. He is 35 years of age and has been a Muslim since 1975. He is a sincere new Ahmadi who desires to propagate the faith. Brother Abdullah is incarcerated in the Augusta Correctional Facility in Craigsville, Virginia. He has never been married. He first wrote to the Washington masjid in January after studying the Maulana Muhammad Ali's translation of the Holy Quran. He was interested in Ahmadiyya literature and particularly Maulana Ali's writings. I wrote to him explaining the movement and the mission of the Promised Messiah.

Brother Abdullah wrote back saying that he fully understands the mission of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) and that he was indebted to his teachings. A bait form and more literature was sent to Brother Abdullah. After one additional letter in which he asked several questions on the movement, Brother Abdullah completed the bait form. I had the opportunity to visit him on June 8, 1991. Brother Abdullah said that he has complete peace in his soul since studying the writings of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) and joining the Ahmadiyya Movement. Brother Abdullah's understanding and love of the Promised Messiah (as) was evident to me in his words and appearance. My visit with him was an inspiration to me and increased my faith in the power of Allah, to change the heart of man. *Alhamdo Lillah.*

SISTER PATRICE VEAL

Sister Patrice Veal has joined the movement of the Promised Messiah (as) in May. She is serving in the military and is stationed at the Pentagon. She had been visiting the Washington masjid for 2 months and studying Ahmadiyyat. The Lajna, Sister Shakoora Nooriah, and Sister Nasira Khan had been helping her and answering her questions. Sister Patrice first came into contact with Ahmadiyyat while in St. Louis. She is engaged to an Ahmadi Brother in St. Louis.

NATIONAL KHUDDAMUL AHMADIYYA IJTEMA

The 16th annual Ijtema of Khuddamul Ahmadiyya was held in Washington area. About 400 Khuddam & Atfal attended this national gathering at our new mosque site on May 24-26 1991. It was the 5th annual Ijtema for our Atfal. Both gatherings were held in accordance with Ahmadiyya traditions of giving both spiritual and physical exercise to our youth who gained tremendously from the speeches of our elders including Sahibzada M.M. Ahmad the Amir, and others. Games and sports competitions were organized as well as competitions for speeches on religious topics.

It was a great experience of spending 3 "model days." All Khuddam and Atfal stayed in camps. The participants got up early for Tahajjud prayers, Darse Quran and Ahadith, held 5 daily prayers and attended other functions in strict Islamic atmosphere.

All praise be to Allah Almighty Who empowered the organizers to hold such a highly successful function. May Allah reward them abundantly. (*Wa ma taufikana Illah billah!!*)

From Washington Post, June 7, 1991

PROBE OF ZIA'S FATAL CRASH 'INCONCLUSIVE,' U.S. REPORTS

by Steve Coll

LAHORE, Pakistan, June 6—After a two-year investigation by the FBI into the mysterious 1988 plane crash that killed Pakistani military leader Gen. Mohammed Zia ul-Haq, the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan and other senior officials, the U.S. Justice Department has determined that the evidence is "inconclusive" as to whether the crash was caused by an accident or sabotage.

The Justice Department's finding, reached after a formal prosecutorial review to decide whether any criminal charges should be pursued in the case, is contained in a confidential FBI summary of its investigation that was transmitted recently to the U.S. State Department.

The summary outlines the FBI's investigation in the United States and Pakistan and concludes that there is credible expert testimony to support both the possibilities of accident and criminal sabotage. The document says the Justice Department was unable to determine the cause of the crash.

Zia, who was one of Washington's staunchest allies, died on Aug. 17, 1988, when his C-130 military transport crashed and burned minutes after taking off from an airfield in Bahawalpur, Pakistan. Also aboard were U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphael, a U.S. general and most of Pakistan's senior military leadership. There were no survivors.

A 1988 investigation led by Pakistan's air force, with extensive U.S. participation, ruled out mechanical failure as a cause of the crash but failed to find direct evidence of sabotage.

Last week, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, a former Zia ally, said his government was reopening its investigation into the crash. Sharif appointed a committee of politicians, police officers and intelligence officials to reexamine the evidence and conduct new inquiries. He provided no timetable for completion of the probe.

"The inquiry was not getting anywhere," Sharif said in an interview today. "Some of the people [on an earlier commission] had retired and some were posted out, so we had to constitute a new committee to start the investigations again."

Sharif said he would withhold public comment about the crash and the investigation until the new committee's work was completed. He also disputed widespread speculation in Pakistan that his elected civilian government has initiated the new investigation to put political pressure on radical Islamic army generals who oppose some of Sharif's relatively moderate positions on foreign policy issues.

"We didn't want to convey a message to anyone," he said. "We just wanted the inquiry."

Washington Post, June 7, 1991

REPORT, NATIONAL IJTEMA MAJLIS ANSAAR-ULLAH U.S.A.

This year Majlis Ansarullah, New York was the host for the Annual National Ijtema U.S.A. which was held on May 11th and 12th, Saturday and Sunday at Bait-ul Zafar New York. New York did their best to make all the necessary arrangements for this occasion. By the Grace of Allah it was a very successful Ijtema in every aspect.

75 Ansars participated in this Ijtema, out of which there were 40 from New York. About 10 Khuddam and Atfal of New York helped the Ansars in miscellaneous duties. The inaugural session started under the chairmanship of Dr. Ehsan Zaffar, Naib Amir USA. After recitation of the Holy Quran, Pledge and Poem, the Message of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (May Allah be his Helper and Guide) was read out by Sadr Ansarullah USA, Brother Fazal Abdullah. Dr. Ehsan Zaffar delivered the opening speech. Religious and Sports Competitions were held. In the various competitions, religious and sports, New York Majlis, showed poorer showing—fetching only one 3rd prize and that went to Rashid Alladin Sb. in prepared speech competition. But Alhamdo Lillah, the New York Ansarullah did an excellent job in hosting the Ijtema and providing all the necessary amenities under Zaeem Ansarullah, Mohammad Sharif Saheb and Mubarak A. Jamil Saheb, Muntazim Ijtema. We pray for all those Ansars who sincerely worked hard in making this Ijtema successful in every way and also serving the Ansars with delicious food. *Jazakomullah Ahsanal Jaza!*

DAILY LIFE AN EXERCISE IN FAITH FOR AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

Daily life for Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan is a continuing trial. Activities that are second nature to all Muslims, like saying *Assalamo alaikum* and proclaiming the Kalima, can result in heavy fines, imprisonment, or even death. The incidents of persecution against Ahmadis are too numerous to allow a report on each one; however, four of the most recent incidents reveal how difficult day to day life is for Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan.

The 10th Annual All-Pakistan Ahmadiyya Women's Athletic Sports Tournament in Rabwah was carried out with extreme difficulty when restrictions were placed on the women's use of loud speakers. An application for the use of loudspeakers was made for the tournament to be held on the 9th and 10th of February 1991 within the four walls of the offices of the Ahmadiyya Women's Association. The assistant Commissioner Chiniot ordered that "loudspeakers may be used if sports competition is confined to the participants of Rabwah and no other activity except sports takes place within the four walls."

In Mandi Bahauddin Mr. Abdul Rashid, proprietor of Rashid Motor Workshop was arrested and charged under Sec. 298c of the Penal Code for issuing invitation cards to the inauguration of his new business. As customary the terms *Assalamo alaikum* and *Insha Allah* were printed on the cards. The mullahs objected to an Ahmadi using Islamic terminology and brought a case against him. Mr. Rashid was arrested the same day.

Rabwah police arrested Mr. Muhammad Rafi Nasir, a respectable member and physician of Rabwah on March 5th, 1991 under section 298c Pakistan Penal Code and transfered him to Chinoit Lockup. According to the details Mr. Nasir published a catalogue of medicines available from his shop which he gave reference to the founder of the Ahmadiyya Community as 'Promised Messiah peace be upon him.' The notorious mullah Allah Yar Arshad objected to this and brought a case against the Ahmadi on March 4th, 1991.

The Sessions Judge Mr. Iftikhar Chaudhry upheld the sentence awarded to an Ahmadi of Wah Cantt, Mr. Mahmood Ahmad Shams Manager Heavy Mechanical Complex Taxila, by the local Magistrate last year. Mr. Shams was sentenced to one year imprisonment and one thousand rupees fine for wearing a Kalima badge and offering Prayers during his official visit to Power House in Multan.

These are only four instances of persecution in a country where no Ahmadi is exempt from discrimination. Our prayers are with all the steadfast and noble Ahmadis of Pakistan.

U.K. ANNUAL CONVENTION

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE ISSUE OF "LETTERS OF INVITATION" FOR PARTICIPANTS FROM THE U.S.

The blessed occasion of the U.K. Annual Convention will, insha'allah, be held from the 26th to 28th of July, 1991, in Islamabad, Tilford, Surrey. All members attending the Convention must be in possession of a "Letter of Invitation" which will be sent to such individuals separately. This letter includes the following information:

1) Name
2) Father's Name
3) Nationality
4) Passort No.
5) Date of Birth.
6) Holder's Signature

All citizens of such countries which require visas for entrance into the United Kingdom must obtain visas *before* beginning their journey. The "Letter of Invitation" should also be produced if demanded by the Visa Issuing Authority.

On arrival at the port/airport in the United Kingdom, the visitors may again be asked by the Immigration Officer to produce the "Letter of Invitation" with a valid visa on their passports. If asked questions, the visitors must give correct and truthful answers.

All guests arriving from abroad will, *insha Allah,* be given free transportation to either the London Mosque or to Islamabad.

THE MIRACLES OF THE TRUE FAITH.

A SOUL INSPIRING STORY OF CONVERSION TO AHMADIYYAT

by Hadji Abdul Karim of Karachi

(This autobiography is very inspiring. It was originally published in Urdu, in Alfurqan, and was sent to us by Hazur. We request other Jama'at members to send the details of such personal experiences to encourage the new converts. We thank sister Rafia Rama for translating it from Urdu).

Alhamdolillah with His Mercy and Graciousness, Allah enabled me to join the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. In 1912 I was a student in Sargodah. Every day, half an hour before the Fajr prayer I would go to the Jamia Mosque near our boarding house to learn how to read the Holy Qur'an. Our headmaster and superintendent of the boarding house, Hafiz Abdul Karim, B.A., was very regular in his prayers and went to the same mosque, but for the Juma' prayer he went to a different mosque. One day I followed him and joined him there for the juma' prayer. After the prayer he asked me why did I say my prayer there. I told him that I had just followed him. He said, "Look, this is Ahmadiyya mosque. These people are also called Qadianis and Mirzais. I am neither Mirzai nor Qadiani but I come here for Juma' because the Imam here explains the Holy Qur'an in an excellent manner during his Juma' sermon, and I enjoy it. You can come here for Juma' prayer but be careful and don't accept their faith."

Afterwards it seemed really strange to me that such a highly educated person who also was a hafiz, should enjoy the sermon and the interpretation of the Holy Qura'n delivered by an Ahmedi but should warn me against accepting their faith. By that time I knew nothing about Ahmadiyyat or its beliefs.

A Dream

I had a dream that night. I found myself attending a religious lecture with a huge number of audiance. An old man was speaking. He said, "Islam is a living religion, its God is living, its Prophet is living, its Book is living and at this time I am sent to prove the veracity of Islam." In the dream I asked somebody who that pious person was, and was told that he was Sayedna Hazarat Mirza Ghulam Ahmed Qadiani (peace be upon him) and that he claimed to be the Imam Mehdi and the Promised Messiah.

Next morning when I went to the Jamia Mosque I asked the Imam what he thought about Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmed Qadiani. He got real mad and said, "O boy, you must be hanging around mirzais. I told him that I had never met a mirzai. He said, "Mirza is a confirmed kafir. Anybody who has doubts about his kufr becomes a kafir. All of his followers are kafirs and if a mirzai enters this mosque it would be so sacriligious that unless the floor is dug six feet deep and a new floor laid in its place there could be no prayer there." I asked the maulvi if a mirzai entered there before the mughrib prayer and walked all over the floor what should we do? He emphatically said the floor should be dug. I asked him what about the prayer, he insisted that there could be no prayer unless a new floor is laid. I told him as the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him had said, "Anyone, who intentionally gives up sala'at is a kafir" I could not agree with his logic. As I had finished my lessons of the Holy Qur'an, so I left the mosque and went to the Ahmadiyya Mosque.

My Initiation

I asked from the caretaker of the mosque if any Ahmedi lived nearby. He directed me to a house in the neighbourhood. I went there and knocked at the door. A white bearded man invited me in. He had made some halva. He woke up his children, told them that halva is waiting for them so they should get up, make quzu, have breakfast and get ready for the mosque. He told me that every morning he makes halva for their breakfast to make them get up early for the prayer, he invited me to breakfast. I asked him if he had a picture of the Promised Messiah, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. He showed me his picture and when I saw the picture, I recognized him as the speaker from my dream. I told that person that I want to join the Ahmadiyya faith. He made me read the ten conditions of initiation, I accepted them, he gave me a post card and right away I wrote my request to Sayedna Hazarat Amirul Momenin, may Allah help him. He also gave me a Durre Sameen (book of poems written by the Promised Messiah).

I joined the army and was posted at Mahev Cantt. When the news of my appointment reached there, the

Muslim subedar major was very happy and came to the railway station to receive me, but when he found out that I was an Ahmedi he was shocked and decided to have me fired. The cook announced that as I was a kafir he would not cook for me. I hired a cook for five ruppees a month but he was made to leave and he took all my belongings with him. Anybody that I hired was forced to leave. So for sometime all I got to eat were dry-roasted beans. So far I had only one book to read, that is, Durre Sameen, so I ordered more books from the center and began to study Burahin-e-Ahmeddiyya. It strengthened my faith. I was still living on dry-roasted beans or sometimes after the job I would go out to eat.

. Subedar major once said to me as I was having such a difficult time, I should leave the job, he offered to go to the colonel and have me discharged on the ground that being the only Ahmedi in the platoon I want to be discharged. I said, "I would stay where Allah has appointed me." He said he would destroy the Ahmediyyat. I replied, "I shall establish the Ahmediyyat." The next day I requested for a name change, that instead of Abdul Karim I should be called A. K. Ahmedi. So the platoon was informed of the name change.

Now the subedar major had to call me, Mr. Ahmedi. He started to make more trouble for me. I wrote to Mufti Mohammed Sadiq and asked him to pray for me. He wrote to my colonel and asked him to look after me as the opponents of my faith were making my life miserable, and he also sent some of the Ahmadiyya literature to him.

When the Colonel received the letter and the literature sent by Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, he sent for me and told me that he had received the letter and the literature and that the literature was very good. Then he asked me why had I not reported to him that I was being tortured by my opponents. I told him that the more they tortured me the more I enjoyed my Salat and prayers.

Once, after the Isha prayer, while I was reading the Brahin-i-Ahmadiyya, I began to wonder why were Muslims so much against us and could not stand it when others accept the teachings of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him. Soon I dozed off and saw that an old person gave me a book that was made of green leaves instead of paper. I turned a few leaves but they were blank. I said: "Sir, this is blank." He replied: "It has everything that you need." I turned a few more pages and saw the following words in large print: **Everybody is chasing you but we shall save you.** I saw a streak of light erupt from these words and penetrate into my body. Now I firmly believed that my beloved Allah is with me and no power of this world can harm me.

QUEEN'S FORMER PHYSICIAN CLAIMS JESUS DID NOT DIE ON CROSS

A former doctor to the Queen, Dr. Trevor Lloyd Davies, has shocked church leaders by claiming that it is highly unlikely that Jesus died on the cross. Dr. Davies says that evidence points to Jesus spending six hours on the cross, while death by crucifixion normally took three to four days.

Dr. Davies says, "At his crucifixion Jesus was in shock and suffering from falling blood pressure, and lost consciousness because of diminished blood supply to the brain."

He further states, "His ashen skin and immobility were mistaken for death and there is no doubt that the bystanders believed he was dead."

Dr. Davies, who served as physician to the Queen of England from 1968 to 1971, put forward his theory in the ***Journal of the Royal College of Physicians,*** a leading medical journal. He claims "There is no reason, once recovered from his wounds, why he could not have lived for years."

Source: *The Times,*, London, April 27, 1991

PEACE SYMPOSIUM AT LOS ANGELES

A *Peace Symposium* was held at the Tahir Hall of the Baitul Hameed Mosque, located at 11941 Ramona Avenue, Chino, California. A total of 523 people attended the symposium and there were 14 speakers.

The chairman for the session was Dr. Hameedur Rehman, President, Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, Los Angeles Chapter. The moderator was Mr. Inamul Haq Kauser, Imam, Baitul Hameed Mosque.

The program began with a recitation of the Holy Quran by Abdul Waheed Khalid and an English translation of the verses by Mr. Rahmat Jamal. In his opening address, the chairman elaborated on the purpose and objectives of the symposium and introduced the moderator. The moderator, Mr. Inamul Haq Kauser, then introduced all the speakers.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Timothy Personius: Righteousness and peace go hand in hand. Dialogue and communication results in better understanding. These discussions provide an environment of Peace.

Prof. Nancy Heiderbrecht, Minister, Assemblies of God's Minister: Children of the world are the biggest asset of the society. They should be taken care of without the concept of boundaries. This in turn will bring about the World Peace.

Imam A. Abdul Hafiz of Chaplain, San Pedro, Ca.: Islamic principle of the Equality of Mankind and all the people as one large family are the sources of lasting peace. Sending Salam on a routine basis is the Islamic ritual to promote Peace.

Mr. Salam Almaryati, Director, Muslim Public Affairs Council, L.A.: Removal of Misconceptions about Islam will be an important step towards attaining the World peace.

Misconceptions	Facts
Islam is an Arab Religion	Islam is Universal
All Arabs are Muslims	Incorrect
Islam teaches Violence	Islam means Peace
Holy War is Jihad	Incomplete Concept

Rabbi Mr. Hershel Brooks, Garden Grove Temple: Concept of God is the key to the attainment of the world peace. Abraham was the founding prophet who brought the religion of peace. Jewish word *Shalom* means peace. Aaron practiced the teachings of peace. An average Jew prays three times for peace, we cherish peace and try to promote peace.

Mr. Robert Spitz, Director, Federation of World Peace: One single source of peace in the world is the concept of *One God*. He is the true source and He is the one who sent teachings of Peace. All religions teach peace. We all should promote love and affection between each other to establish World Peace. We all should decide that we will work towards this goal.

Mr. Frank Colborn, Chaplain, Clairmont Colleges: Islamic theme that God is Merciful and Compassionate is truly the Hallmark of attaining World Peace. If mankind shows compassion to each other, we could achieve our desired goal sooner than later. Peace can only be attained by working towards it and not just talking about it. Let us begin working at it.

Mr. Anwer M. Khan, General Secretary, Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, L.A. Chapter: World Peace can be considered attained only if all 221 countries are at peace with each other and also amongst each other. Islam means Peace and the very fundamentals of Islamic Faith are the very ingredients needed to attain Peace. Unity of God, beliefs in all the Prophets and all the Holy Scriptures and the Day of Judgement, all lead to World Peace. Islam has specific instructions for all the deterrents to World Peace today. **Love for All and Hatred for None** is the Hallmark of Islamic teachings. Islam proposes the concept of "Right is Might" and opposes the concept "Might is Right."

Father Bill, Minister, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Pomona, Ca.: People belonging to different faiths have to improve in their religious beliefs and practices in order to give rise to an enduring peace. We as Catholics have to truly convert ourselves to true Catholics, then only can we expect World Peace. If Jesus would appear today, he would not even recognize the Christians because of their deeds. Let us all work to bring justice in our lives and those around us.

Mr. Om Tandon, Head, Narankari Mission, Norco, Ca.: There is no faith in the world which teaches anything other than peace and human welfare. The concept of

God is vital, names of God, however is a mute point. Caring about other fellow beings is what is required to attain peace in the World. God is not of any specific denomination, He is the Creator of mankind at large and He loves Peace, therefore we should promote affection amongst each other.

Professor John Hicks, Head, Trilogue Group, Upland, Ca.: The purpose of the Trilogue group is to bring closer the followers of three most important faiths in the world. All of these originated from the common Founder Abraham. Let us try to understand the differences instead of moving away from each other. If we began to respect each other's faiths we can bring peace in a short time.

Mr. Mag Delano Rose Avila, Director, Amnesty International, Los Angeles, Ca.: Respecting Human rights irrespective of cast, color or creed is the key to bring World Peace. The theme presented by this Mosque group, **Love For All - Hatred for None** is a very positive and strong slogan, all of us should start practicing it. Our Organization is doing just that, preserving the rights of Blacks, minorities, Third World poverty stricken individuals around the world.

Rashid Lateef Rashidi, Secretary, Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, L.A. Chapter: Islam is the religion of Peace. Holy Prophet Muhammad practiced all what he preached. In his famous last address to humanity, Prophet Muhammad stated: "No Arab has any superiority over a non-Arab and a non-Arab has no superiority over an Arab." Mankind is suffering from the disease of arrogance, Islam denounces this evil and directs us to follow the humble course in our lives. This will ensure World Peace. Islam allows to take arms when a people are attacked and deprived from following their faith.

(Anwer M. Khan, General Secretary, Los Angeles Chapter)

Local Jamaat Reports

(continued from page 16)

PHOENIX, AZ: Monthly meeting for May 1991 of the Phoenix Jamaat held at 2521, N. Sean Dr., Chandler, Arizona 85224. This meeting was presided over by Muneer Ahmad Malik and started at 4:45 pm with a recitation from Holy Quran by Mansoor Ahmed. This was followed by a poem by Sohail M. Malik; *"Hai duste Qibla Numa La ilaha illallah, Hai darde dil ki dawa la ilaha illallah"*. Atif M. Malik read an article from the writings of Masih Mauood regarding the "Wonderful and Powerful God". In this abstract the Promisd Mesiah emphasized that we should revert to Almighty Allah for all of our needs, no matter how small or big they are. After Atif Malik, Aamir Ahmad read the article regarding, "Alcoholism and Islam" from the *Review of Religions*. In this article, the writer emphasized that Islam has forbidden alcoholism 1410 years ago and the same explanation has been given by Modern Scientist. After Amir Ahmed, Mansoor Ahmed read the sayings of the Holy Prophet regarding the "Spiritual Values" of our life. This collection of sayings was collected by Ch. Md. Zafarullah Khan.

In his concluding speech Brother Muneer Ahmad Malik refered to the Holy Quran, where the purpose of the creation of mankind has been discussed. The various kinds of prayers needed to become a true *"Abid"*. He refered to *"Salat"*, *"Zakat"*, financial contribution and time spent for the pleasure of Allah. He quoted the verse of Musleh Mauood that *"Khidmate deen ko aek Fazale Ilahi jano, Es ke badle mein kabeh talbe eenam na ho"*

He, while narrating his personal incident about devoting time for the pleasure of Allah, emphasized that we should never think that any time we devote for the Jamaat is going to be a waste. He also referred that any activity in life within the purview of these verses of the Holy Quran such as seeking Knowledge, working and feeding your family, as long as seeking the pleasure of Allah, is important.

In the end were collective prayers. The meeting concluded at 6:15 pm. Then we offered *Zuhr* and *Asar* Prayers and then light refreshments were served.

Nasirat Report

(continued from page 19)

been tested in salat, learning obligatory prayers, learning to read the Holy Quran, memorizing the first 10 verses of Sura Al-Baqarah, memorized hadith, prayers, attributes, and made a speech on Hazrat Usman. We are reading a Book. 13-15: We are memorizing the first 17 verses of Sura Al-Baqarah, made a response to Sura Al-Ala, studied hadith, made a speech on Jihad, memorized Attributes of Allah, and reading Book 3. All the Nasirat were given instructions on Mosque etiquette and the Importance of Ramadan.

WASHINGTON: Our Nasirat prepared 200 brown bag lunches and distributed them to the homeless people in the neighborhood. The girls are following the Nasirat Program for their age group. The girls' progress charts are being monitored by their parents.

TWO RECENT MARRIAGES

The Promised Messiah had come to unite all mankind in one international family. We had an example of this intercultural unity in two recent marriages performed in this country. In both cases, the grooms were born and raised in the United States, initially in a Jewish family which embraced Ahmadiyyat some fifteen years ago. The brides belong to two Ahmadi families from Pakistan who are currently residing in this country. We give further details of these unions below. Let us pray that God grant both couples a blissful life and make them and their offspring servants of God and a source of the spread of Ahmadiyyat.

All these functions began with a recitation from the Holy Quran, and were concluded with a silent prayer, in the true tradition of Islam.

On April 28, 1991, the Nikah ceremony was performed joining Bashir Asad Collidge, son of Sister Zainab Asad, of York, PA, with Fauzia Anjum Mirza, daughter of Dr. B.M. Mirza and Ameena Mirza, of Athens, OH. Arrangements for this union were initiated by Sister Zainab Asad when she contacted Dr. Mirza asking for the hand of his daughter for her son.

The Nikah function was arranged at the Quality Inn, Nelsonville, OH. Nearly 150 people attended the ceremony. Lunch was served including some oriental style dishes. A wedding cake was then cut by the groom and the bride and all present partook a piece of the cake.

The *Walima* ceremony was organized by Bashir Asad and his family on Sunday, May 5, 1991 at the Holiday Inn, Westchester Mall, York, PA. A delicious dinner was served. Mr. Nasir Ahmad Khan of Gaithersburg, MD, had written a poem in Urdu commemorating the union of Fauzia and Bashir. He read that poem at this gathering. An English translation of the poem was also given and is reproduced below.

On June 14, 1991, the Nikah ceremony of Musa Sharif Asad, son of Zainab Asad and Humma Ahmad, daughter of our Missionary, Mubashar Ahmad, was held at the Security Ramada Inn, Baltimore, MD. Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad conducted the ceremony and explained the meaning of "Nikah". After the groom and the father of the bride gave their consent, everyone joined in congratulating them and a delicious meal was served.

Later, Nasir Ahmad Khan, the grandfather of the bride delivered a heartfelt poem congratulating the couple and offering prayers for their piety and happiness. Translation of the poem, reproduced below, was rendered by the cousin of the groom, Ahmad Tariq Sharif. Zafr Ahmad Sarwar followed with another poem.

The joyous occasion concluded with silent prayer.

The *Walima* ceremony was conducted at the Holiday Inn, Westchester Mall, York PA on Sunday, June 16, 1991, where the guests were treated with a very delicious dinner.

ON BASHIR ASAD & FAUZIA'S MARRIAGE

1. Lo Spring has again come, loaded with flowers. Nightingales are singing sweet and melodious songs of joy and pleasure.

2. Every nook and corner of the garden has become fragrant, and every bud is bursting with pleasure.

3. So attractive decorations and such a superb gathering of friends has added lustre to the celebrations of Bashir's marriage, arranged by his Mother.

4. Congratulations to Bashir and to his mother. Fauzia, the Bride, has also brought so many blessings with her.

6. A marriage, however, requires lot of self-sacrifice, as also abundance of Love and its foundations are based on profound piety and virtuous conduct.

7. Loving regards for the In-laws, elders and young alike is a must and both of you need not be wanting in this respect.

8. Every step in your life should be on the path of virtue, as in the long run, you have to lead the others.

9. May 'ALLAH' bestow on the Bride and the Groom His choicest blessings of a happy married life, and make them an embodiment of Love and that grief may never never cross their path. Amin!

With best wishes,

Nasir Ahmad Khan

ON MOOSA ASAD & HUMA'S MARRIAGE

1. How refreshing is the Air, how charming the morning; Every nook and corner of the garden is scented and fragrant.

2. Morning breeze is blowing kissing the flowers, and is the bearer of some pleasant News.

3. That Moosa-Huma's marriage is fixed to-day; of course no news could be more pleasing than this one.

4. God has blessed us with another occasion for rejoicing, as Moosa Huma's marriage is no less than a celebration of Eid for us.

5. Zainab's heart's desire has also been fulfilled to-day; and Nusrat Mubasher are equally jubilant.

6. May 'Allah' grant to the Bride & Groom 'the breadth of Vision' & Strength of Character; embellished by 'Virtue' and 'Piety'.

7. Along with the Worldly affairs they may be mindful of Religion; 'Mehdi's mission has to receive impetus from us.

8. 'Love for all & hatred for none' will of course be your Motto; & your word and deed bear the seal of grace and thoughtfulness.

9. 'Nasir' prays that you both prosper in life and that your Days be bright and your Nights beacon of light.

May it be so, Amin

With best wishes,

Nasir Ahmad Khan

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

All brothers and sisters are requested to pray sincerely for the following respected personalities of the Jama'at who are under treatment for different causes:

Syeda Asifa Begum, wife of Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV, will be undergoing tests and diagnosis in Cleveland following the heart attack which she suffered.

Our respected Amir, Sahilizada M.M. Ahmad, is suffering from diabetes. His eyesight was affected, but is improving.

Maulana Mubarak Ahmad Saqi suffered from angina in Surinam and is now under treatment in New York.

Mrs. Naseema Begum, wife of our Maulana Ataullah Kaleem is under treatment for malignant tumors. Her condition is serious and she is undergoing radiation treatment, etc.

Please pray for all of them. Please also remember all of those who have been put behind bars in Pakistan for no reason except that they are Ahmadis and act accordingly.

IMMIGRATION IN AMERICA

by Iftekharul Haq

America is known as the "nation of immigrants". Yet many Americans view unrestricted immigration as potentially harmful to the country's economic and social well-being. This fear has led to the passage of a number of laws to restrain immigration. Most recent of such laws is the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

The first immigration law was passed in 1882, called the Chinese Exclusion Act. The purpose of this law was two-fold; to bar the Chinese from acquiring citizenship and prevent them from entering the United States. In fact, this was in response to the popular resentment against the Chinese. Perhaps it was because of their industry and hard work.

Then in 1917 an immigration act was enacted that required mandatory literacy for immigrants over the age of 16. Johnson Act in 1921 put limitations on the number of immigrants based on the country of origin. Many similar laws, usually called Restrictionist Legislation, were followed by the Johnson Act of 1921. But the only piece of major legislation promulgated was the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952. It reinforced the tough immigration restrictions of the 920s and added security provisions. These were lesigned to make it almost impossible for suspected ubversives to enter the United States. Then in 1965 Congress passed Hart-Caller Act which eliminated ıational origin as the basis for selection of immigrants to the United States.

Finally in 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act was passed. Under this act legal status was ffered to aliens who had entered the United States legally before January 1, 1982 and have resided here ver since. The passage of this Act marked a historic hange in American immigration policy. Under the revious laws, illegal aliens could be deported but it vas not illegal for employers to hire them. According o the new act the employer who hires illegal aliens is ubject to civil penalties with fines ranging from $250 o $10,000 for each such alien. Since the inception of nmigration laws, various restrictionist legislations ave had limited and uncertain success. This has been artly due to two reasons, viz., the great attraction ıis country has as a land of opportunity and partly ue to the lack of funding to enforce such laws.

Nevertheless, one thing is clear: the immigrants ave been valuable and beneficial assets to the United tates especially in its achievements as first rate conomic and military power in this century.